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Commission on the Status of Women
Sixty-third session
11–22 March 2019
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Annotated provisional agenda and proposed organization of work*

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century":
   (a) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives:
      (i) Priority theme: social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;
      (ii) Review theme: women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development (agreed conclusions of the sixtieth session);
   (b) Emerging issues, trends, focus areas and new approaches to questions affecting the situation of women, including equality between women and men;
   (c) Gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters.
4. Communications concerning the status of women.
5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.
6. Provisional agenda for the sixty-fourth session of the Commission.
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixty-third session.

* The proposed organization of work will be issued as E/CN.6/2019/1/Add.1.

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Annotations

1. Election of officers

In accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and pursuant to Council resolution 1987/21 and decision 2002/234, the Commission on the Status of Women elects its Bureau for a two-year period. At the 1st meeting of its sixty-second session, on 24 March 2017, the Commission elected, by acclamation, Mauricio Carabali Baquero (Colombia) as Vice-Chair for the sixty-second and sixty-third sessions. At the 2nd meeting of its sixty-second session on 12 March 2018, the Commission elected, by acclamation, Geraldine Byrne Nason (Ireland) as Chair of the sixty-second and sixty-third sessions of the Commission, and Rena Tasuja (Estonia) as Vice-Chair for the sixty-second and sixty-third sessions. At the 1st meeting of its sixty-third session on 23 March 2018, the Commission elected, by acclamation, Koki Muli Grignon (Kenya) as Vice-Chair of the Commission at its sixty-third session. The Commission postponed the election of the remaining Vice-Chair, on the understanding that upon nomination by the Asia-Pacific Group, the candidate would be allowed to participate in the meetings of the Bureau held in preparation for the sixty-third session of the Commission.

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/16, the Commission appoints five of its members to serve a two-year term on the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women, established in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/27. At the 1st meeting of its sixty-third session, the Commission appointed Belgium and the Russian Federation to serve as members of the Working Group on Communications at the sixty-third session of the Commission.

In the absence of nominations from the African, Asia-Pacific and Latin American and Caribbean States, the Commission postponed the election of the remaining three members of the Working Group on Communications to a later date, on the understanding that upon endorsement by their respective Groups, the endorsed members of the Commission would be allowed to participate fully in the proceedings of the Working Group on Communications. At its 2nd meeting, the Commission will be called upon to appoint the remaining members of the Working Group.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 7 of the rules of procedure provides that the Commission, at the beginning of each session, shall adopt the agenda of that session.

The provisional agenda and documentation for the sixty-third session of the Commission were approved by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2018/228.

Preparations for the sixty-third session of the Commission were undertaken in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2015/6 on the future organization and methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women. Accordingly, the Bureau of the Commission held several meetings as well as informal briefings and consultations with delegations to consider the organization of work for the session.

Following past practice, statements delivered by representatives of delegations of members and observers of the Commission during the general discussion shall be limited to 5 minutes, and statements made on behalf of groups of delegations to 10 minutes. It is also recommended that interventions from non-governmental organizations on themes relevant to the session be integrated into the general

discussion and the interactive expert panels, taking into consideration geographical balance.

3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

(a) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives:

(i) Priority theme: social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;

(ii) Review theme: women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development;

In its resolution 2016/3, the Economic and Social Council decided that, at its sixty-third session, in 2019, the Commission would consider as its priority theme "Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls" and also decided that it would consider as its review theme "Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development", in follow-up to the agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission at its sixtieth session (see E/2016/27-E/CN.6/2016/22).

In its resolution 2015/6, the Council decided that the session of the Commission would include a ministerial segment to reaffirm and strengthen political commitment to the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls as well as their human rights and to ensure high-level engagement and the visibility of the deliberations of the Commission, and that the segment would include ministerial round tables or other high-level interactive dialogues to exchange experiences, lessons learned and good practices, as well as a general discussion on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. The Council recommended that statements identify goals attained, achievements made and efforts under way to close gaps and meet challenges in relation to the priority theme and the review theme.

Also in its resolution 2015/6, the Council decided that the Commission would evaluate progress in the implementation of the agreed conclusions on a priority theme of a previous session, as its review theme, through an interactive dialogue that includes:

(a) Member States of different regions, on a voluntary basis, presenting their lessons learned, challenges and best practices that identify means for accelerated implementation through national and regional experiences;

(b) Ways to support and achieve accelerated implementation, including through addressing data gaps and challenges in the enhanced collection, reporting, use and analysis of data with regard to the theme, at the national, regional and global levels.

Ministerial segment

The Ministerial segment of the Commission will be held from 11 to 13 March 2019 and will include a series of ministerial round tables and other high-level interactive dialogues.

Interactive expert panel on the priority theme

The Commission will hold one interactive expert panel with the participation of experts from Governments, the United Nations system, civil society and other stakeholder groups that work on the priority theme.

Interactive dialogues on the review theme

The Commission will hold two interactive dialogues with voluntary presentations by Member States from different regions on the review theme, and one interactive expert panel on the data challenge – and opportunity: good practices.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls (E/CN.6/2019/3)

Note by the Secretariat containing a discussion guide for the ministerial round tables on the priority theme (E/CN.6/2019/5)

Report of the Secretary-General on women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development (E/CN.6/2019/4)

(b) Emerging issues, trends, focus areas and new approaches to questions affecting the situation of women, including equality between women and men

In its resolution 2015/6, the Economic and Social Council determined that the Commission would, as necessary, continue to discuss emerging issues, trends, focus areas and new approaches to questions affecting the situation of women, including equality between women and men, that require timely consideration, taking into account developments at the global and regional levels as well as planned activities within the United Nations, where increased attention to gender perspectives is required, and with attention to relevant issues on the agenda of the Council, in particular its annual main theme, as applicable.

In the same resolution, the Council requested the Bureau of the Commission, prior to the session, to identify such an emerging issue, trend, focus area or new approach, in consultation with all Member States, through their regional groups, and taking into account inputs from other relevant stakeholders, for consideration by the Commission through an interactive dialogue.

In accordance with resolution 2015/6, the Bureau of the Commission, following consultations prior to the session, identified "Women and girls of African descent" as the focus area for the sixty-third session.

(c) Gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters

Normative aspects of the work of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

In accordance with paragraph 67 (c) of General Assembly resolution 64/289, the Commission will have before it the annual report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) on the normative aspects of the work of UN-Women and on its implementation of the policy guidance provided by the Commission.

Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

In its resolution 2018/10 on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women, the Economic and Social Council requested the Commission to continue to monitor and take action with regard to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. It also requested the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation, to assist Palestinian women by all available means and to submit to the Commission at its sixty-third session a report, including information provided by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, on the gender-specific impact of the occupation and the progress made in the implementation of the resolution.

Violence against women

In its resolution 50/166 on the role of the former United Nations Development Fund for Women (now UN-Women) in eliminating violence against women, the General Assembly requested the Fund to include in its regular reports information on the establishment of a trust fund in support of national, regional and international actions to eliminate violence against women and to provide such information to the Commission.

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

In accordance with article 21.2 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the reports of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women are transmitted to the Commission for its information.

Programme matters

The Commission will have before it the proposed programme of work of UN-Women for 2020, programme 14, Gender equality and empowerment of women.

Documentation

Report of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on the normative aspects of the work of the Entity (E/CN.6/2019/2)

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women (E/CN.6/2019/6)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on the activities of the United Nations trust fund in support of actions to eliminate violence against women (A/HRC/41/3-E/CN.6/2019/7)

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its sixty-seventh, sixty-eighth and sixty-ninth sessions (A/73/38)

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the results of the seventieth and seventy-first sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (E/CN.6/2019/10)

4. Communications concerning the status of women

In its resolution 76 (V), the Economic and Social Council established a procedure by which the Commission would receive and consider communications relating to the

status of women. In its resolution 304 I (XI), the Council amended resolution 76 (V) and requested the Secretary-General to compile, before each session of the Commission, a list of confidential and non-confidential communications, containing a brief indication of the substance of each communication.

In its resolution 1983/27, the Council reaffirmed the mandate of the Commission to consider confidential and non-confidential communications on the status of women and authorized the Commission to appoint a working group to consider such communications and prepare a report thereon for the Commission.

In its resolution 1993/11, the Council reaffirmed that the Commission was empowered to make recommendations to the Council on what action should be taken on emerging trends and patterns of discrimination against women revealed by such communications.

In its decision 2002/235, the Council decided, in order to make the communications procedure of the Commission more effective and efficient:

(a) That the Commission, starting at its forty-seventh session, should appoint, at each session, the members of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women for the next session so that the members would be able to meet to enable the Secretariat to issue their report three working days before the adoption of the agenda by the Commission;

(b) To request the Secretary-General:

(i) To inform Governments about each communication pertaining to them that would be considered by the Commission and give them at least 12 weeks before the consideration of such communications by the Working Group;

(ii) To ensure that the members of the Working Group receive in advance the lists of communications, including replies from Governments, if any, to be taken into account in preparing its report for examination by the Commission.

In its resolution 2009/16, the Economic and Social Council decided that the Commission, starting at its fifty-fourth session, should appoint the members of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women for a two-year period.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the list of confidential communications concerning the status of women (E/CN.6/2019/R.1 and E/CN.6/2019/R.1/Add.1)

5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

The Commission will have before it a letter from the President of the Economic and Social Council on resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council, for its consideration and action, as necessary.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 72/305, the Economic and Social Council, at its integration segment, will discuss and consolidate all the inputs of Member States, the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council, the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders to promote the balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development.

The theme of the 2019 session of the Economic and Social Council is "One world for all: empowering people to build equal and inclusive societies". The high-level political forum on sustainable development will, in 2019, consider the theme "Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality".

Documentation

Letter dated 14 December 2018 from the President of the Economic and Social Council addressed to the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2019/8)

Note by the Secretariat on the contribution by the Commission on the Status of Women to the work of the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development (E/CN.6/2019/9)

6. Provisional agenda for the sixty-fourth session of the Commission

In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, the Commission will have before it a draft provisional agenda for its sixty-fourth session, including the list of documents to be submitted for its consideration.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixty-third session

In accordance with rule 37 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, the Commission shall submit to the Council a report on the work of its sixty-third session.

Annex

Membership of the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-third session (2019)

(45 members; four-year term)

Member	*Term expires at close of session in the year*
Albania	2019
Algeria	2022
Bahrain	2021
Belgium	2019
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2019
Brazil	2020
Canada	2021
Chile	2021
China	2021
Colombia	2019
Comoros	2022
Congo	2022
Ecuador	2022
Equatorial Guinea	2019
Eritrea	2020
Estonia	2021
Ghana	2022
Guatemala	2020
Haiti	2022
Iraq	2022
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	2019
Ireland	2021
Israel	2021
Japan	2022
Kenya	2022
Kuwait	2020
Liberia	2019
Liechtenstein	2019

Member	*Term expires at close of session in the year*
Malawi	2019
Mongolia	2019
Namibia	2021
Nicaragua	2022
Niger	2021
Nigeria	2020
Norway	2020
Peru	2021
Qatar	2020
Republic of Korea	2022
Russian Federation	2020
Saudi Arabia	2022
Spain	2019
Trinidad and Tobago	2020
Tunisia	2021
Turkmenistan	2022
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	2020